

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 AID-05 SY-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /068 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 590

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6113

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, SHUM

SUBJ: POSSIBLE RELEASE OF CHILEAN DETAINEES

1. SUMMARY. WELL-INFORMED SENIOR WEST EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT TOLD EMBOFF OCT 7 ABOUT MEETING LAST WEEK AMONG COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES, ICRC REPS, ICEM, AND CHILEAN COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES. SIMILAR MEETING WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WAS HELD OCT 7. TOTAL PROGRAM BEING DISCUSSED WITH GOC ENVISAGES RELEASE OVER THREE MONTHS OF 3,000 DETAINEES, OF WHOM ABOUT 1,700 COULD BE EXPECTED TO STAY IN CHILE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO ICRC/REFUGEE COMMITTEE STATISTICS PROVIDED TO COMMON MARKET DIPLOMATS, GOC EXPECTS TO RELEASE DURING PERIOD OCT-NOV SOME 2,000 DETAINEES. (BUT SEE PARA 7 BELOW.) OF THESE, 1500 ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN CHILE AND 500 ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE. OF LATTER 500 350 ARE EXPECTED TO GO TO LATIN AMERICAN AND 150 TO EUROPE.

3. IN DECEMBER, ACCORDING TO THIS PRESENTATION, GOC WILL RELEASE ANOTHER 1,000 PERSONS, INCLUDING "MORE SERIOUS" CASES. OF THIS FIGURE ONLY 200 ARE EXPECTED TO STAY IN CHILE AND 800

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WILL HAVE TO LEAVE. ICRC HOPES THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY ROMANIA, WILL TAKE THE MAJORITY, PERHAPS UP TO 600,

LEAVING 200 TO WESTERN EUROPE.

4. ICRC/REFUGEE COMMITTEE STRESSED THAT ALL OF THESE FIGURES ARE EXCLUSIVE OF "DAWSON ISLAND" GROUP OF SENIOR LEADERS. NOR DO THESE FIGURES INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS, WHICH ICRC CALCULATES ON BASIS OF 2.7 FAMILY MEMBERS PER DETAINEE.

5. ICRC/REFUGEE COMMITTEE LISTED THREE CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WHO MAY BE RELEASED: (A) THOSE WHO WILL BE EXILED WITHOUT CHOICE ("FROM DETENTION CAMP TO AIRPLANE") -- THIS GROUP IS EXPECTED TO BE QUITE SMALL; (B) PEOPLE WHO CAN CHOOSE EXILE OR REMAIN IN DETENTION AWAITING TRIAL; (C) THOSE WHO WILL BE RELEASED AND MAY REMAIN IN CHILE. LAST GROUP COULD LEAVE IF THEY SO DESIRED, BUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO DO SO WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME OF THEIR RELEASE.

6. ANOTHER SOURCE INFORMS US THAT ICRC IS PRESSING HARD FOR EUROPEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO TAKE THESE PEOPLE, BUT TO DATE HAS HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE LATIN AMERICANS. SOURCE STRESSED THAT COUNTRIES GENERALLY ARE WILLING TO TAKE INDIVIDUALS BUT NOT UNIDENTIFIED "GLOBS/ OF PERSONS. (OFFICER OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK HIS AMBASSADOR HAD INSISTED ON HAVING NAMES AND HISTORIES, SO GOR COULD KNOW WHAT IT WAS BEING ASKED TO RECEIVE. ICRC AT THAT TIME HAD NO NAMES.) CONSEQUENTLY, ICRC HAS NOW PROMISED TO MAKE BIO DATA CARDS ON EACH INDIVIDUAL DETAINEE, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CIRCULATED AMONG ALL INTERESTED EMBASSIES. THERE ARE NOW 6-8 PERSONS WORKING ON THIS PROJECT IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

7. SOURCE STATED THAT "WE NEITHER BELIEVE THESE FIGURES NO DO WE ANTICIPATE THAT DETAINEES WILL BE RELEASED AS QUICKLY AS WE HAVE BEEN TOLD." AT THIS POINT, HE SAID, "WE DO NOT KNOWWHAT TO EXPECT AND WE ARE SIMPLY WAITING; VERY FEW COUNTRIES WANT THESE HOTHEADS." HE SAID, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE JUNTA SEEMS TO BE PUSHING TO RESOLVE THE DETAINEE PROBLEM BY CHRISTMAS, WITH THE UNSPOKEN ASSUMPTION THAT THE JUNTA WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO MAKE SOME KIND OF GESTURE -- "A QUASI-AMNESTY" -- TO ALLOW CHILEANS OUT SIDE OF CHILE TO RETURN. CHILEAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE NOW HAS THE BALL ON QUESTION OF DETAINEE RELEASE AND IS WORKING ACTIVELY.  
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8. COMMENT. GOC HAS STATED (REF B) THAT ONLY 748 "DETAINEES," DEFINED AS PERSONS AGAINST WHOM NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT, ARE PRESENTLY BEING HELD. IF ICRC IS NOW TALKING OF SOME 3,000 PERSONS TO BE RELEASED BY END OF YEAR, OBVIOUSLY BULK WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THOSE EITHER AWAITING TRIAL OR ALREADY SENTENCED. THIS WOULD PRESUMABLY INVOLVE USE OF SOME KING OF PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY OR PARDON.  
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